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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): KIM, Mi-Young

For: METHOD FOR CHECKING DISK LOADING STATUS IN OPTICAL DISK
DRIVER

Enclosed are:

- X A specification consisting of 15 pages
- X 07 sheet(s) of Formal drawings
- An assignment of the invention
- X Certified copy of Priority Document(s)
- X Executed Declaration Original X Photocopy
- A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37
CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27
- Preliminary Amendment
- Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and reference(s)

Other _____

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

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Respectfully submitted,

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METHOD FOR CHECKING DISK LOADING STATUS IN OPTICAL DISK DRIVER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk driver, and more particularly to a method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk driver of slot loading type in which a disk loading status is detected and discriminated by multi-stage in inserting a disk into an optical disk driver such as a CD-ROM driver so that when the disk is discriminated as being jammed, it is automatically unloaded.

2. Description of the Background Art

As shown in Figure 1, typically, a CD-ROM driver, an optical disk driver that reads out a signal recorded on an optical disk such as a CD-ROM and transmits it to a host such as a personal computer through an interface, includes an optical pick-up 2 for reading a signal recorded on an optical disk 1; a wave-filtering/shaping unit (RF) 3 for wave-filtering/shaping the signal read by the optical pick-up 2, converting it to a binary signal and outputting it; a digital signal processing unit (DSP) for processing the binary signal to a digital signal and restoring it to a digital data and outputting it; an interface unit 5 for transmitting the restored digital data to a connected host such as a personal computer; a sled motor 9 for moving the optical pick-up 2; a spindle motor 10 for rotating the optical disk 1; a driver 8 for driving the sled motor 9 and the spindle motor 10 to be rotated; a servo unit 7 for controlling operations of the optical pick-up 2 and the

driver 8; a MICROCOMPUTER 6 for controlling operations of the servo unit 7 and the digital signal processing unit 4; a memory 11 for storing a data required for controlling operation of the MICROCOMPUTER 6; a timer 12; and an eject key for inserting or ejecting the optical disk 1, a plurality optical sensors 1 and 2 installed
5 in a loading mechanism that leads in the optical disk 1 mounted on a tray (not shown) and a loading switch.

The operation of the CD-ROM driver constructed as described above will now be explained.

When the optical disk 1 is mounted on the tray (not shown) prepared in
10 the CD-ROM driver, the loading mechanism is driven to lead the tray on which the optical disk 1 has been mounted to inside the CD-ROM driver, and the inserted optical disk is clamped by a clamber (not shown).

Thereafter, when the spindle motor 10 is rotated according to a driving voltage supplied from the driver 8 and thus the optical disk 1 is rotated at a high
15 speed, in order to read out a signal recorded on the recording surface of the optical disk 1, the optical pick-up 2 renders a laser diode provided therein to luminesce to thereby form an optical spot on the recording surface. The reflected light of the optical spot as formed is converted to an electric signal by a photo diode provided in the optical pick-up 2, to be outputted.

The outputted electric signal is converted to a binary signal by the wave-
20 filtering/shaping unit 3, processed to a digital signal by the digital signal processing unit 4, and restored to a digital data so as to be transmitted to the host such as a personal computer connected through the interface unit 5.

The disk loading operation in which the optical disk mounted on the tray is
25 inserted to perform a reading operation by the optical pick-up will now be

described with reference to Figures 2A through 2F.

Figures 2A through 2F illustrate sequential processes of disk loading after the optical disk is mounted on the tray and is inserted into the CD-ROM driver.

A shown in the drawing, in the path on which the optical disk mounted on the tray, there is provided the plurality of optical sensors S1 and S2 to sense a type of the optical disk, that is, the size of the optical disk. For example, the first optical sensor S1, like a photocoupler, installed in the central inner portion of the lead-in path of the optical disk senses whether a led-in optical disk has a size of 8cm, and the second optical sensor S2 installed in the central outer portion of the lead-in path of the optical disk senses whether a led-in optical disk has a size of 12cm. And, the loading switch SW installed in the rear portion of the lead-in path senses whether the led-in optical disk has been completed clamped.

That is, in case that the optical disk mounted on the tray has the size of 12cm, as shown in Figure 2C, light emitted from the first and second optical sensors S1 and S2 are all blocked, so that the MICROCOMPUTER 6 receives sensing signals, that is, low level signals, from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 to thereby discriminate the optical disk as having the size of 12cm, and as shown in Figure 2F, clamping completion status is discriminated by the loading switch that is turned on or turned off according to the clamping operation.

Meanwhile, in case that no optical disk is mounted on the tray, the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 outputs sensing signals, that is, high level signals, respectively.

In case that the optical disk mounted on the tray has the size of 8cm, the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 outputs a low level signal and a

high level signal as sensing signals, respectively.

According to the sensing signals sensed by the first and the second optical sensors and the ON/OFF state of the loading switch SW as the tray is inserted, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 discriminates the type of the optical disk, that is, the size of the optical disk, and whether clamping has been completed, transmits corresponding information through the interface unit 5 to the personal computer PC. Thereafter, according to commands requested by the personal computer, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 performs data reading operation.

However, the optical disk happens to be jammed during the disk loading operation, more particularly in a disk driver of slot loading type. For example, the optical disk may be unsuitably mounted on the tray or the optical disk is jammed due to an error of the loading mechanism, so that the state as shown in Figures 2C, 2D or 2E is maintained for more than a predetermined time. In this case, no solution has been proposed to transmit information reporting the optical disk jammed status so that an ejecting operation itself is performed upon discrimination of the jammed status or the host connected through the interface unit 5 transmits a corresponding command instructing an ejection. This causes users' inconvenience in that the user should directly check the disk jammed status and manually press an eject key to eject the disk.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, an object of the present invention is to provide a method for checking disk loading status in an optical disk driver by which a loading status of an optical disk is segmented to be discriminated by multi-stage, for which in case

that a disk-jammed status is discriminated, corresponding information is transmitted to a host connected through an interface, so that a disk ejection command is outputted from the host or a disk ejection operation is performed by itself.

5 To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, there is provided a method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk including the steps of: discriminating a loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage; transmitting corresponding information to a host connected through an
10 interface in case that disk has been jammed upon discrimination; and performing disk-ejection operation according to a disk ejection command received from the host.

In the step of discriminating the loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage of the method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk, a loading
15 status of an optical disk is discriminated by multi-stage on the basis of sensing signals respectively outputted from a plurality of optical sensor for sensing a size of the optical disk and from a loading switch for sensing whether the optical disk has been clamped.

In order to achieve the above object, there is also provided a method for
20 checking a disk loading status in an optical disk including the steps of: discriminating a loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage; and performing a disk-ejection operation by itself in case that the disk has been jammed upon discrimination.

This method further includes a step of transmitting information reporting
25 the disk-ejection to a connected host.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further
5 understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this
specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the
description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a schematic block diagram showing a construction of a general
10 optical disk driver in accordance with a conventional art;

Figures 2A through 2F illustrate a sequential loading status and
processes;

Figures 3A through 3F illustrate levels of sensing signals sensed
according to disk loading operation;

15 Figure 4 illustrates levels of sensing signal as a disk is jammed during a
disk loading operation;

Figure 5 is a flow chart of a method for checking a disk loading status in
an optical disk driver in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 6 illustrates a mode parameter header and code format for a CD-
20 ROM disk type in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 7 is a flow chart of a method for checking a disk loading status in
an optical disk driver in accordance with another embodiment of the present
invention.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Figures 2A through 2F illustrate a sequential loading status and processes, Figures 3A through 3F illustrates levels of sensing signals sensed according to disk loading operation, and Figure 4 illustrates levels of sensing signal as a disk is jammed during a disk loading operation.

In the method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk driver in accordance with the present invention, the multi-stage disk loading status is discriminated as shown in Figures 2A through 2F and Figures 3A through 3F. In case that levels of sensing signals outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW are maintained for more than a predetermined time as shown in Figure 4, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 discriminates it as a disk jammed status.

That is, after the disk is inserted, if no sensing signal indicating that clamping has been completed is detected from the loading switch for more than a predetermined time, it is discriminated that the disk has been jammed.

In detail, as shown in Figure 3A, in case that there is no optical disk mounted on the tray 1, all of the levels of the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switching SW become high, while, as shown in Figure 3B, in case of initial loading status that the optical disk 1 is mounted on the tray and let in, the levels of the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW become low, high and high, respectively.

And, as shown in Figures 3C through 3E, in case of a loading status that the disk is jammed, the levels of the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW become 'low, low, high', 'high, low, high' and 'low, low high', respectively, the status of which is detected for more than a predetermined time as shown in Figure 4, whereas, as shown in Figure 3F, in case that the led-in disk is completely clamped, the levels of the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW become 'low, low, low' respectively. Accordingly, on the basis of the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 segmented the current disk loading status into multi-stage to be discriminated.

Especially, as shown in Figure 4, in case that the vales of the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW are maintained for more than a predetermined time, or in case that no sensing signal indicating completion of clamping is detected from the loading switch for more than a predetermined time after the disk is inserted, it is discriminated that the disk has been jammed and a disk-ejecting operation is performed.

The disk-ejecting operation will now be described with reference to accompanying drawings.

Figure 5 is a flow chart of a method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk driver in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

First, when the tray is opened to insert the optical disk 1 and closed (S20), a disk loading operation is performed that the tray on which the optical disk is

mounted is inserted into the optical disk driver according to the driving of the loading mechanism. At this time, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 receives and compares the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW (S21), and discriminates the loading status of the optical disk 1 as shown in Figures 3A through 3F by multi-stage (S22).

Upon discrimination, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 generates a corresponding mode sense data as previously defined (S23) and transmits the generated mode sense data to the host (a personal computer) connected through the interface unit 5 to report each disk loading status discriminated by multi-stage.

In this respect, in case that the interface unit 5 uses the typically used ATAPI bus for interfacing with the personal computer, the MICROCOMPUTER generates a mode sense data in a 12 byte packet command format as defined by the ATAPI communication protocol and transmits each disk loading status discriminated by multi-stage for reporting.

For example, as shown in Figure 6, variable values recorded in a recording medium type code among header information of the previously defined mode sense parameter are recorded to be difference to each other according to the disk loading status, to be transmitted and reported to the host.

Namely, in case that the disk loading status of Figures 3A and 3B are maintained for more than a predetermined time, the variable values are recorded in the recording medium type code field by "h'71" and "h'71/h'F2", respectively, and the current disk status is transmitted to the host. Meanwhile, in case that a disk loading status of Figure 4 is maintained for more than a predetermined time, that is, a disk-jammed status is maintained, the variable value is recorded by "h'F2"

and the disk-jammed status is transmitted to be reported.

Thereafter, according to the transmission and report of the mode sense data corresponding to the disk loading status, in case that the MICROCOMPUTER 6 receives an eject command requesting disk-ejection operation from the host, it drives the loading mechanism to perform the requested disk-ejection operation, so that the disk-jammed status is not maintained for more than a predetermined time.

In this manner, in the optical disk driver adopted to the present invention, the disk loading status is discriminated by multi-stage and the corresponding mode sense data is transmitted to the host. And then, the disk-ejection operation is performed according to the eject command requested by the host, whereby the disk-ejection operation is automatically performed with the disk-jammed status.

Figure 7 is a flow chart of a method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk driver in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention.

Likewise in the former embodiment of the present invention, when the tray is opened to insert the optical disk 1 and closed (S30), a disk loading operation is performed that the tray on which the optical disk is mounted is inserted into the optical disk driver according to the driving of the loading mechanism. At this time, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 receives and compares the sensing signals respectively outputted from the first and the second optical sensors S1 and S2 and from the loading switch SW (S31), and discriminates the loading status of the optical disk 1 as shown in Figures 3A through 3F by multi-stage (S32).

Upon discrimination, in case that the disk has been jammed, the MICROCOMPUTER 6 drives the load mechanism by itself to quickly perform a disk-ejecting operation (S33), generates a mode sense data for reporting the disk-

ejection operation , and transmits it the host such as the personal computer connected through the interface unit 5 (S34).

Meanwhile, upon discrimination, in case that the disk is in a state of Figures 3A, 3B and 3F, the MICROCOMPUTER generates a mode sense data
5 having a corresponding variable value, and transmits it to the host. And then, the MICROCOMPUTER receives a corresponding command from the host and performs a corresponding operation such as data reading.

Accordingly, in the optical disk driver adopted to the present invention, the disk loading status is discriminated by multi-stage and a corresponding mode
10 sense data is transmitted to the host. In addition, when the disk is discriminated to have been jammed, the loading mechanism is driven by itself, thereby quickly performing the disk-ejection operation.

As so far described, according to the method for checking disk loading status in an optical disk driver of the present invention, a loading status of an
15 optical disk is segmented to be discriminated by multi-stage, and in case that a disk-jammed status is discriminated, corresponding information is transmitted to a host connected through an interface, so that a disk ejection command is outputted from the host or a disk ejection operation is performed by itself to thereby automatically perform the disk-ejection operation for the disk-jammed status.

As the present invention may be embodied in several forms without
20 departing from the spirit or essential characteristics thereof, it should also be understood that the above-described embodiments are not limited by any of the details of the foregoing description, unless otherwise specified, but rather should be construed broadly within its spirit and scope as defined in the appended claims,
25 and therefore all changes and modifications that fall within the meets and bounds

of the claims, or equivalence of such meets and bounds are therefore intended to be embraced by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk comprising the steps of:

5 discriminating a loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage;
transmitting corresponding information to a host connected through an interface in case that disk has been jammed upon discrimination; and
performing disk-ejection operation according to a disk ejection command received from the host.

10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein in the step of discriminating the loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage, a loading status of an optical disk is discriminated by multi-stage on the basis of sensing signals respectively outputted from a plurality of optical sensor for sensing a size of the
15 optical disk and from a loading switch for sensing whether the optical disk has been clamped.

20 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein when the combination of the sensing signals respectively outputted is not a value indicating a state that the disk is completely mounted and as such being maintained for more than a predetermined time, it is discriminated that the disk has been jammed.

4. A method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk comprising the steps of:

25 discriminating a loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage; and

performing a disk-ejection operation by itself in case that the disk has been jammed upon discrimination.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising a step of
- 5 transmitting information reporting the disk-ejection to a connected host.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for checking a disk loading status in an optical disk including the steps of: discriminating a loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage; transmitting corresponding information to a host connected through an interface in case that disk has been jammed upon discrimination; and performing disk-ejection operation according to a disk ejection command received from the host, wherein in the step of discriminating the loading status of an optical disk by multi-stage, a loading status of an optical disk is discriminated by multi-stage on the basis of sensing signals respectively outputted from a plurality of optical sensor for sensing a size of the optical disk and from a loading switch for sensing whether the optical disk has been clamped.

FIG. 1
CONVENTIONAL ART

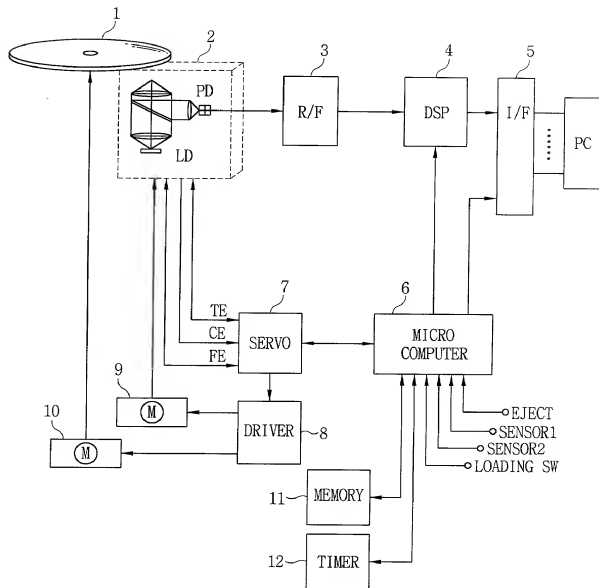


FIG.2

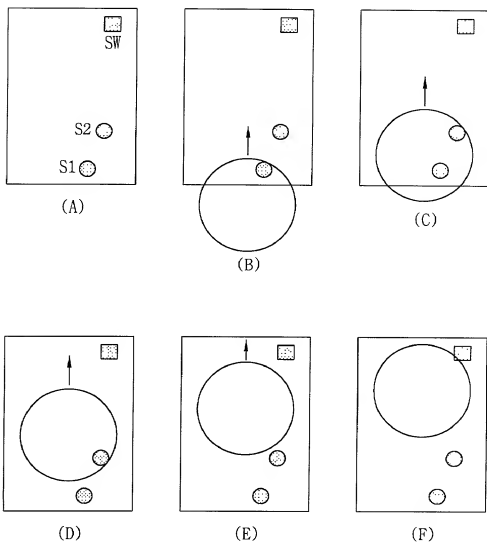


FIG.3

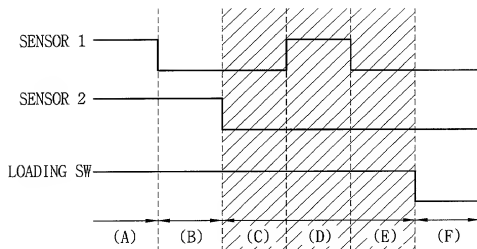


FIG.4

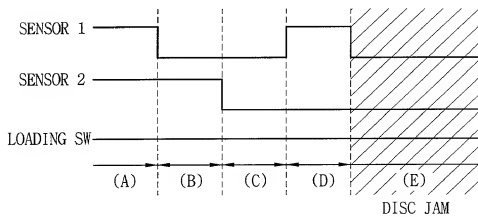
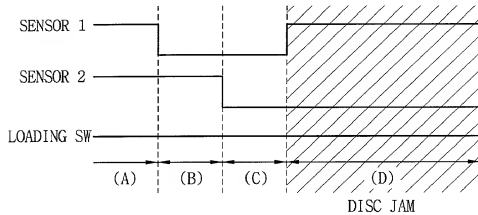
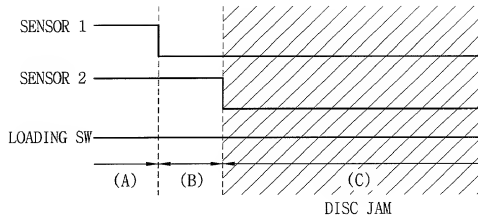


FIG. 5

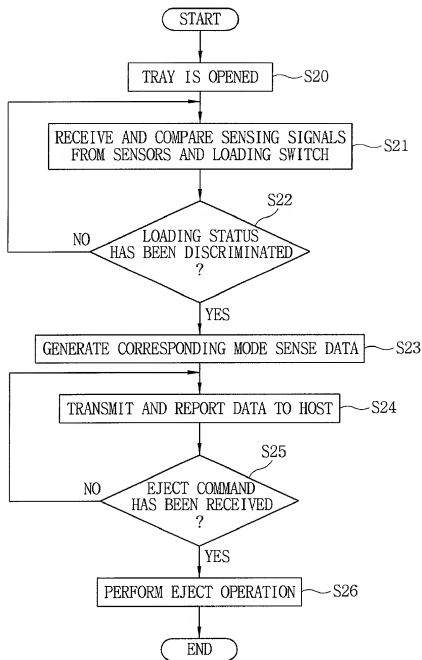


FIG.6A

MODE PARAMETER HEADER

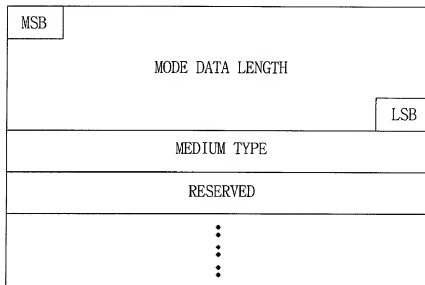
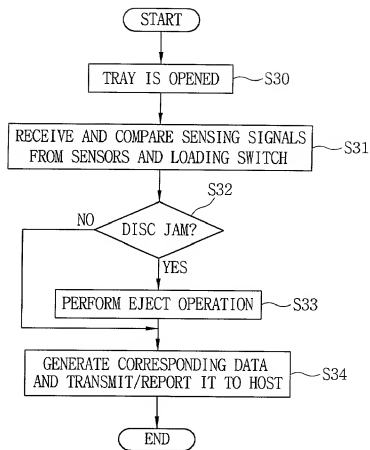


FIG.6B

CD-ROM MEDIUM TYPE CODES

CODE	MEDIUM TYPE DESCRIPTION
00H	DOOR CLOSED/CADDY INSERTED, MEDIUM TYPE UNKNOWN
01H	120MM CD-ROM DATA ONLY CLOSED OR CADDY INSERTED
02H	120MM CD-ROM AUDIO ONLY, DOOR CLOSED OR CADDY INSERTED
⋮	⋮

FIG. 7



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FOR PATENT AND DESIGN APPLICATIONS

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Insert Title:

METHOD FOR CHECKING DISK LOADING STATUS IN OPTICAL DISK DRIVER

Fill in Appropriate
Information -
For Use Without
Specification
Attached:

the specification of which is attached hereto. If not attached hereto,

the specification was filed on _____ as
United States Application Number _____; and /or

the specification was filed on _____ as PCT
International Application Number _____; and was
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I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

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Information:
(if appropriate)

Prior Foreign Application(s)

39419/1999 (Number)	Korea (Country)	09/14/1999 (Month/Day/Year Filed)
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Month/Day/Year Filed)
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Month/Day/Year Filed)
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Month/Day/Year Filed)
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Month/Day/Year Filed)

Priority Claimed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

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(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

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_____	_____	_____

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(if any)

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)	(Status - patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and/or an international application based on this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and in connection with the resulting patent based on instructions received from the entity who first sent the application papers to the attorneys identified below, unless the inventor(s) or assignee provides said attorneys with a written notice to the contrary:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of First or Sole
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